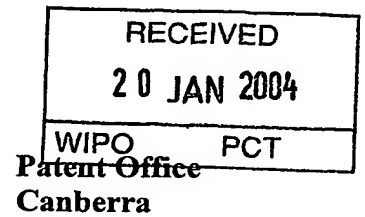
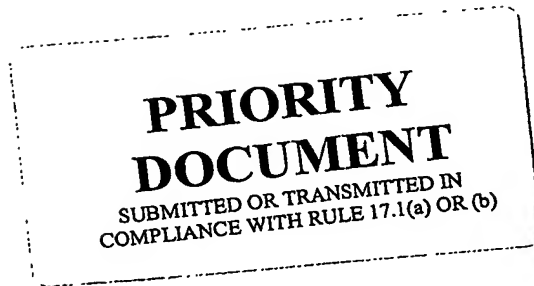
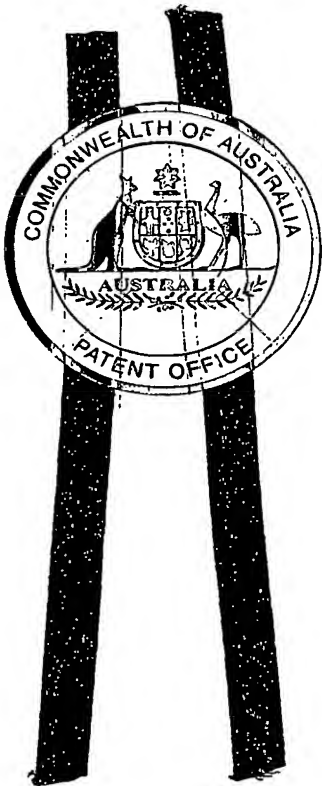




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01 JUL 2005



I, JONNE YABSLEY, TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION SUPPORT AND SALES hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional specification in connection with Application No. 2003900128 for a patent by MARK SNYDERS as filed on 14 January 2003.



WITNESS my hand this
Ninth day of January 2004

J R Yabsley

JONNE YABSLEY
TEAM LEADER EXAMINATION
SUPPORT AND SALES

Provisional Specification

Invention Title

Couch Assembly

The invention is described in the following statement

(See within)

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THIS INVENTION relates to an article of furniture and, more specifically is concerned with a construction of a comfortable couch which can be assembled and disassembled relatively easily, and stored and transported in a relatively compact form.

In accordance with the present invention a couch assembly comprises two rigid and upright side panels of similar external outline and held in a spaced relationship, each panel providing an under edge for resting on a floor and an upper edge for supporting one marginal side-portion of a flexible platen of parallel elongated and relatively inflexible elements extending between opposite sides of the platen and held together by flexible ties enabling the platen to be rolled up during transportation and to be unrolled over the upper edges of the side panels to provide an upper surface to the couch.

Each of the under edges of the panels suitably has a similar convex shape to provide the couch with rockers which allow a person or persons reclining on the couch to rock it gently backwards and forwards. Rigid tubes may be used to hold the panels in the required spacial relationship and quick-release connectors may be used to attach the tubes to the panels. Holes provided in the panels in registration with the interiors of the tubes enable bars or rods to be threaded through the panels and the tubes so that their ends protrude from each side of the couch and enable suspension wires, chains, ropes or cords to be used to suspend the couch above ground level so that it may be swung to and fro. As a result of the convex under edges of the panels, the couch only requires to be lifted through a minimum distance before it can be swung to and fro without risk of the panels scraping on the ground.

Conveniently the upper edges of the side panels are similarly contoured to give the upper surface of the couch a desired comfortable shape. The upper edges of the side panels may also be provided with resiliently flexible and soft strips of a plastics or rubbery material which yields readily in conjunction with the platen in response to the weight of a person's body when resting on the couch to make it more comfortable.

The inflexible elements of the platen preferably comprise parallel bamboo

rods which may be spaced from one another by intervening parallel and short tubular elements of a smaller diameter and which may also be made from bamboo.

In a preferred arrangement the side panels provide a track along which an axle may be reciprocated along the underside of the platen by a suitable drive mechanism. The axle may carry axially spaced rollers or wheels which bear against the underside of the platen to lift its elongated elements slightly during reciprocation of the axle. The rollers or wheels have a sufficiently large diameter to produce this effect by moving individual elements of the platen upwardly as the axle passes beneath them during its reciprocation. This imparts a gentle, travelling, percussive, massaging action to a person resting on the couch.

Conveniently the axle has a stowage position when not required, in which its two ends respectively locate in bayonet slots at one end of the underside of the couch. When the axle occupies this position its wheels or rollers protrude slightly from one end of the under edges of the panels so that, by manually lifting the other end of the couch through a small angle, the wheels engage the ground and enable the couch to have its position changed easily.

The invention will now be described in more detail, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying informal and diagrammatic drawings, in which:-

FIGURE 1 is a side perspective view of a couch;

FIGURE 2 shows an end view of the couch from its higher end;

FIGURE 3 is a perspective view of the couch after removal of a covering platen;

FIGURE 4 is an end view of the couch after removal of its covering platen and shows a stowage position of a wheel-carrying axle;

FIGURE 5 is a rear view of the couch standing on one side and serving as a refreshment bar and drinks counter; and,

FIGURE 6 is a front view of the bar of figure 5.

A couch shown in figure 1 and identified generally at 1, has two upright and spaced side panels 2 which are attached to one another by rigid tubes 3 secured to the panels 2 by quick-release connectors (not shown). The panels 2 are flat and planar and have upper curved edges 4 of concave shape, and convexly curved lower edges 5 providing rockers beneath the couch. A thick soft resilient foamed rubber or plastics strip 6 extends along the upper edge of each of the panels 2 as clearly shown in figure 4.

The top resting surface of the couch is provided by a platen 7 made from spaced bamboo lengths 8 extending between opposite sides of the platen 7 and held together by flexible wires (not shown) passing diametrically through the lengths 8 and through shorter spacer lengths 9, also made from bamboo, and of lesser diameter. As is apparent from figure 2, the side margins of the platen respectively rest on the strips 6. The weight and flexibility of the platen holds it securely in position on the concave upper edges of the panels 2.

Each panel 2 has a facing plate 10 attached to its inside surface to provide with its upper edge a curved track 11 extending parallel to and beneath the intermediate portion of the platen 7. An axle 12, shown held manually in figure 4, extends between the two tracks 11 as shown in figure 3, and is mounted on small rollers 13 at its ends which run along the tracks 11. Inwardly of the rollers 13 the axle carries two wheels 14 of larger diameter than the rollers 13 and which have tyred rims 15. These may be interchanged with tyred rims of a different resilience. The diameters of the wheels 14 are sufficiently large for their tyred rims to bear against the underside of the bamboo elements of the platen when the axle is driven along the tracks 11 by a drive mechanism (not shown). Such a mechanism may comprise a motor-driven belt loop connected by a lazy flexible tie to the axle 12 so that, as the belt loop is driven, the axle is reciprocated back and forth along the track 11. An endless reversing leadscrew may also be used to reciprocate the axle 11 back and forth beneath the platen 7. the axle's movement causes the elements of the platen 7 to lift in succession in response

to the wheels passing beneath them, and this imparts a pleasant percussive massaging effect to a person or persons reclining on the couch.

A blind bayonet slot 17 is provided beneath one end-portion of each track 11 as shown in outline in figures 3 and 4. The rollers 13 are prevented from entering the slot 17 when the axle 12 is being reciprocated back and forth. However a gate (not shown) at the entrance to each slot can be moved to allow the rollers 13 at the ends of the axle to enter the slots and be moved to a position at which they respectively engage in a laterally-projecting blind end 18 to the slot 17. When so engaged, the rims of the wheels 14 project beneath the under edge 5 of the panels and make ground contact when the higher end of the couch is lifted slightly. The wheels 14 thus carry the weight of the couch and allow it to be rolled easily from place to place.

To dismantle the couch, the platen 7 is rolled-up and the tubes 3 are disconnected from the panels 2 by way of the quick-release connectors. The axle 12 and its associated drive mechanism are removed from their operating positions. The tubes and axle can then be inserted into the rolled-up platen and the two panels 2 arranged face-to-face beside the platen roll to provide a compact unit for transportation to a site of use.

Figures 5 and 6 show the couch being used for a totally different purpose, namely, a refreshment bar. This mode of use is achieved by standing the parts of the couch shown in figure 3 on one side so that one of the panels 2 rests face down on the floor. The other panel is then horizontal and about one metre above floor level. The strip 6 provides a soft edge to the back of the bar and the platen 7 is placed on one side edge so that the bamboo elements 8 and 9 are upright and cover the front of the bar. The tubes 3 extending between the panels 2 to attach them to one another, have their interiors accessible from outside the panels 2, as shown at 19 in figure 1, and this allows long long rods (not shown) to be inserted vertically into them when couch parts are in the bar mode of figures 5 and 6. Short lengths of bamboo tubing 24 are then placed over the long rods and rest at their lower ends on the upper panel 2. Their lengths are so chosen that their upper ends are at the same height as the top edge of the platen 2. Flat plates 21 shaped to conform to part of the upper edge of the bamboo platen are then

placed over the long rods where they rest and are restrained on the upper edge of the platen 7 and on the upper ends of the tubes 24. They then occupy the positions shown in figures 5 and 6, and serve as counters on which served drinks can be placed. Bamboo cylinders 23 are threaded onto the upper ends of the long rods so that they rest on the plates 21. Spigots (not shown) are then inserted into the upper ends of the bamboo tubes 23 to hold in place a screen (not shown) covering the bar above head height.

From the above detailed description of the drawings it will be appreciated that I have devised a structure capable of serving as a comfortable rocking couch which is cool and well ventilated by virtue of the slots in the bamboo platen covering the upper surface of the couch. The couch may also be fitted with a drive assembly to enable the bamboo elements of the platen to be lifted in turn through a short distance to allow a percussive massage to be given to one or two people lying on the couch. The wheels which run along the underside of the platen to effect the massage, may also be stowed towards one end of the couch so that they provide ground wheels to enable the couch to be easily moved from one place to another by lifting its other end through a short distance. The percussive nature of the massage can be varied by changing the tyred rims of the axle for rims having a different resilience. Finally, by placing the couch on one side and adding a few easily fitted components, it can be used as a refreshment bar for serving drinks as shown in figures 6 and 7. Further, by pendantly supporting it above ground level on ties extending to overhead anchorages and fixed to the ends of rods passing through the tubes holding the panels 2 to one another, a swinging couch is achieved.

From the above description it will be understood that I claim my invention to reside in one or more of the features set forth in the following numbered paragraphs:

1. A couch assembly comprising two rigid and upright side panels of similar external outline and held in a spaced relationship, each panel providing an under edge for resting on a floor and an upper edge for supporting one marginal side-portion of a flexible platen of parallel elongated and relatively inflexible elements extending between opposite sides of the platen and held together by flexible ties enabling the platen to be rolled up during transportation and to be unrolled over the upper edges of the side panels to provide an upper surface to the couch.
2. A couch assembly as set forth in the preceding paragraph, in which the upper edges of the panels are respectively provided with resiliently flexible and soft strips of a plastics or rubbery material which yields readily, in conjunction with the platen, to the weight of a person's body when resting on the couch.
3. A couch assembly as set forth in any one of the above-numbered paragraphs, in which the panels have convex matching under edges to enable them to provide rockers beneath th couch.
4. A couch assembly as set forth in either of the two above-numbered paragraphs, in which the inflexible elements of the platen comprise parallel bamboo rods spaced from one another by intervening parallel and shorter elements of a smaller diameter.
5. A couch assembly as set forth in any one of the above-numbered paragraphs, in which each of the side panels provides a track along which a axle may be reciprocated by a drive mechanism to produce a travelling ripple back and forth along the upper face of the platen.

Dated this 13th. day of January 2003.

MARK SNYDERS

By: *H. J. Rantgen*
(Applicant's Patent Attorney)

Figure 1

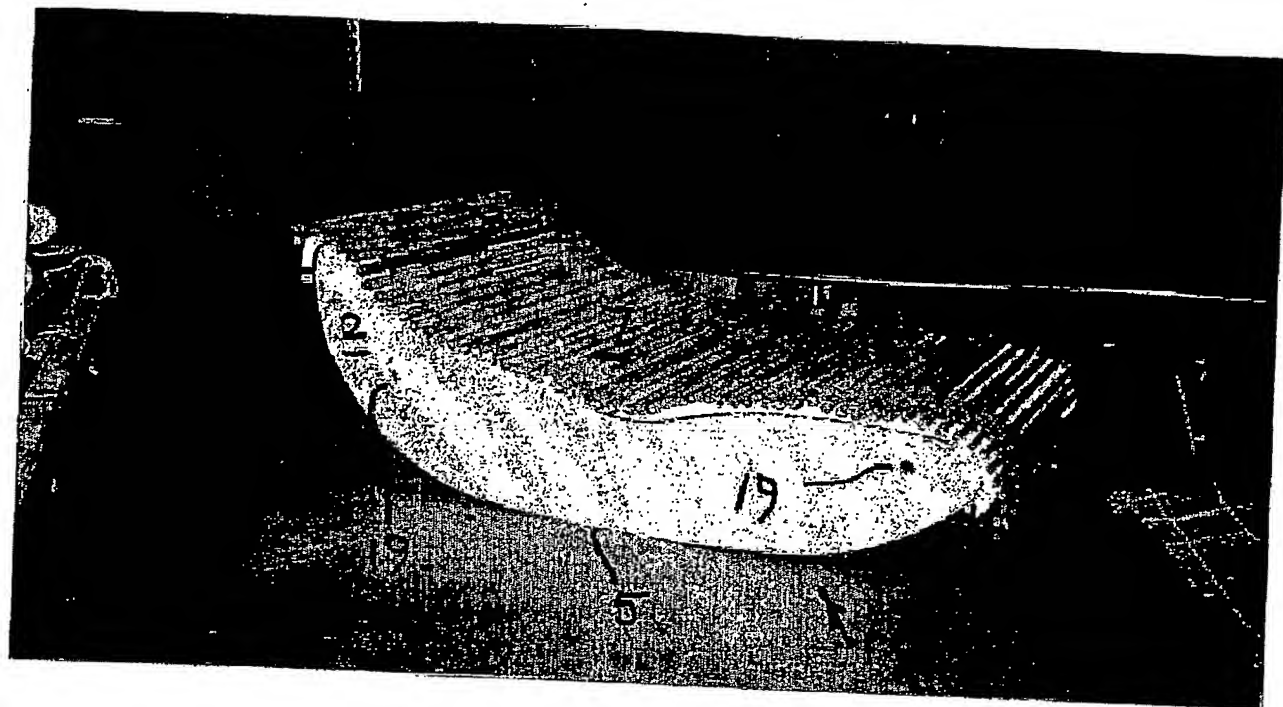
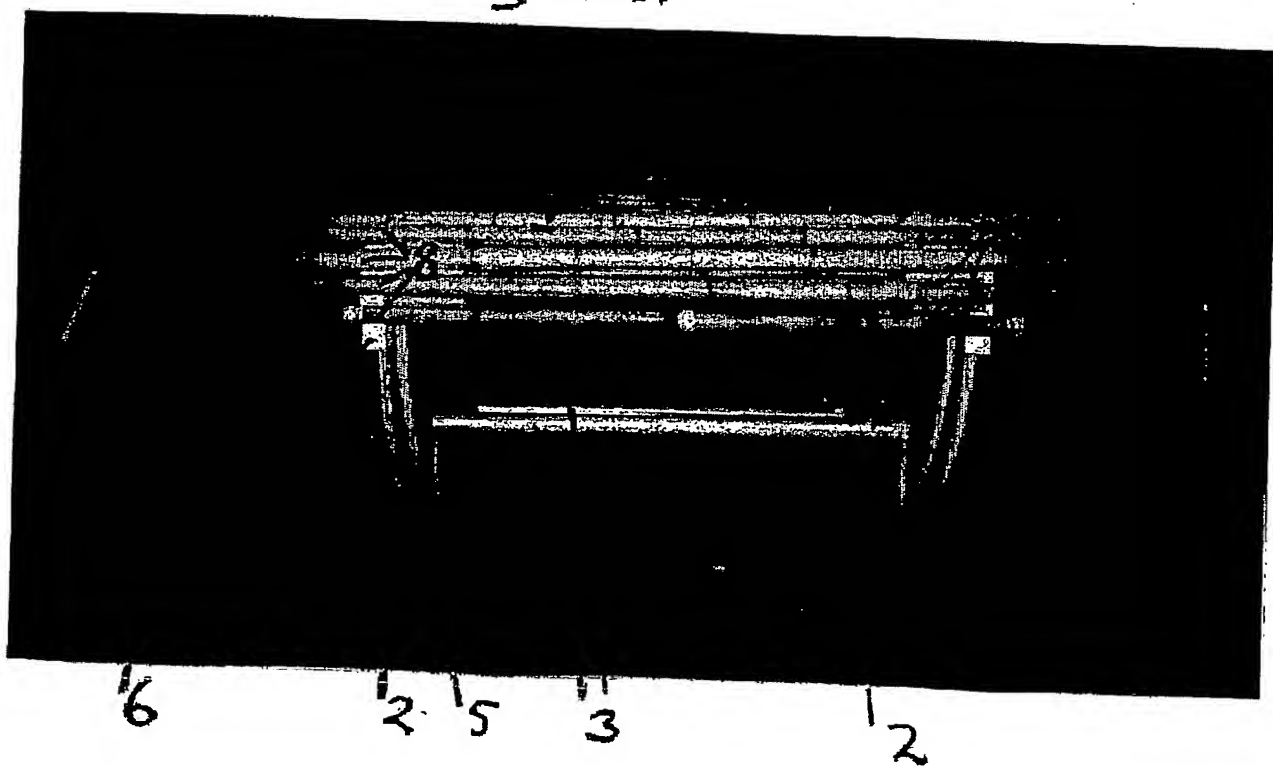


Figure 2



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Figure 3

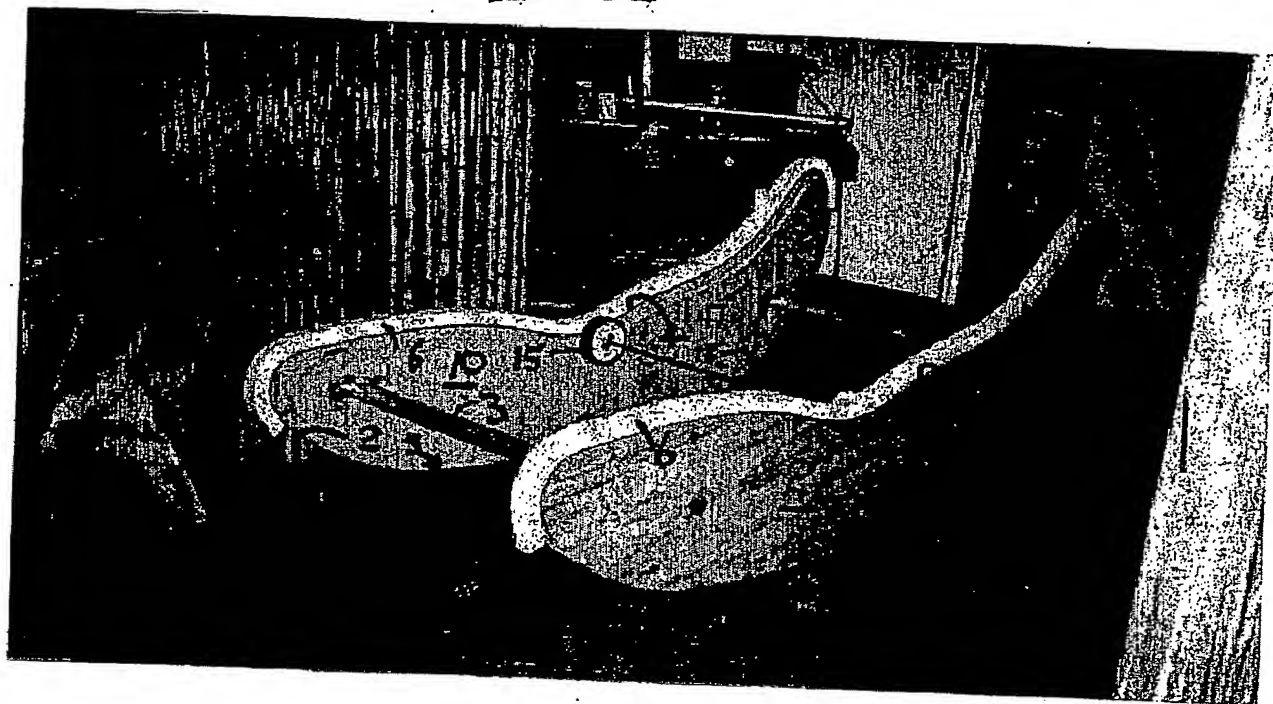


Figure 4



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Figure 5

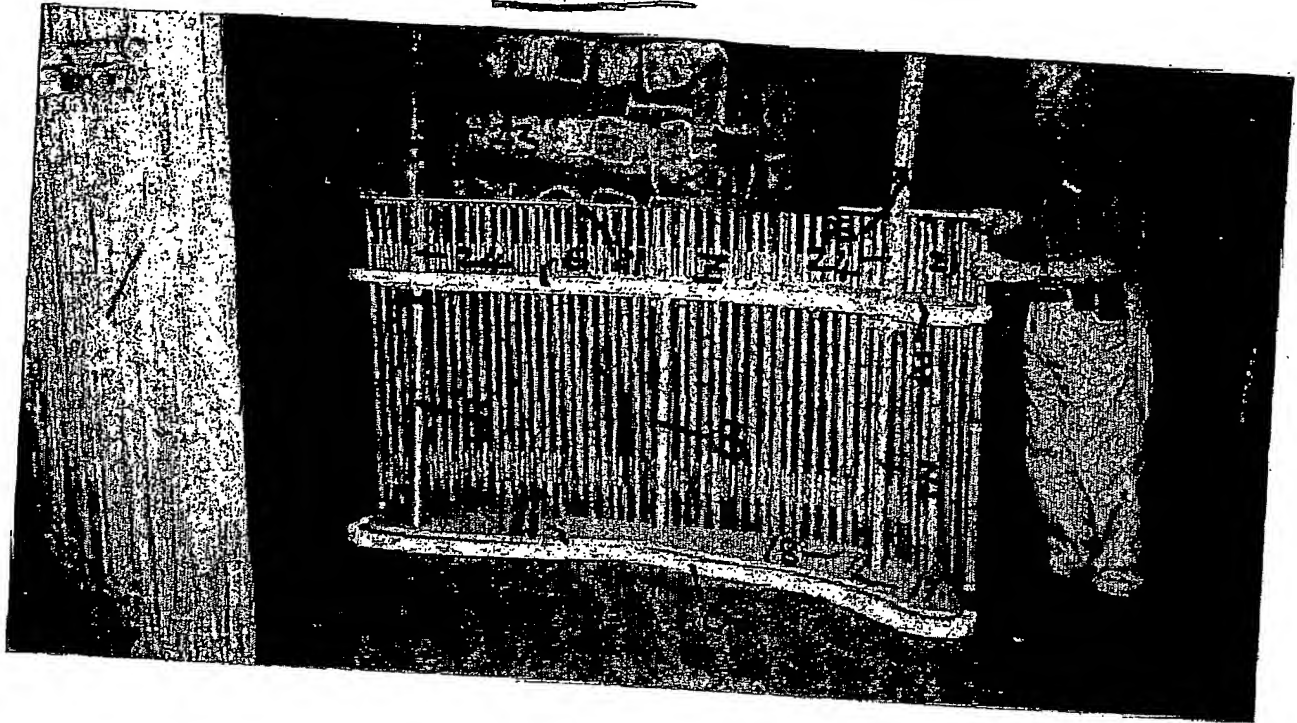
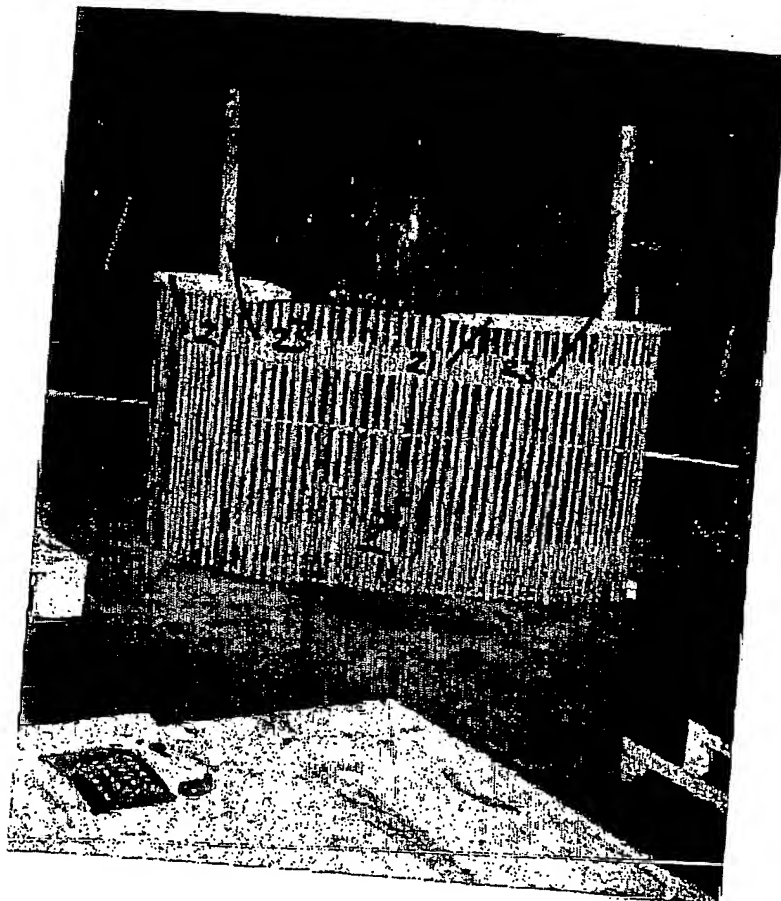


Figure 6



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